[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

pension. He draws travelling allowance at the rates prescribed in the British Service Regulations for first class officers.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Since the policy of the Darbar is one of strictest economy or "reasonable and relentless retrenchment", will the Government be pleased to say why the Darbar indented on so costly an officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: This is a question of policy which cannot be discussed at question time.

WORKING PLANS IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

10. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: (*a*) What are the steps that are now being taken for the preparation of Working Plans?

(*b*) Are the Government in possession of the Draft Rules regarding "Simple or Preliminary Working Schemes or Plans"?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the Draft Rules *in re* simple schemes?

(*d*) Has the Conservator of Forests given or have the Government obtained from the Conservator any report stating his reasons for deviating from the Working Plans in 1095 and 1096?

(*e*) What is the cost incurred by Government in preparing the existing Working Plans?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The preparation of detailed Working Plans is held in abeyance.

(*b*) & (*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) The Conservator reports that, the deviations being slight, the sanction of the Government was not applied for.

(*e*) The total cost is reported to be Rs. 78,612.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to say if they have any explanation to offer in this Council why they did not possess themselves of these rules for the past five years, although the reserves had been worked according to them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The matter is under correspondence

IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST COMMUNICATIONS.

11. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to say whether the Conservator of Forests has sent up a separate report on the improvement of "communications" and particularly waterways as suggested by the Government in their review of his report in 1087?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to call for such a report without delay?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) & (*b*) A special report was made to the Government and it was ordered in 1915 that, as the matter would involve a heavy outlay, the existing practice of carrying out works of a minor nature at a moderate cost should continue till the State finances improved. In reviewing the Forest Administration for 1096, the Government suggested that the matter should

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be pressed in the budget ; and in the budget for 1098, a provision of Rs. 14,700 has been made under 'Forest Communications' and of Rs. 5,000 for the improvement of waterways.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: With reference to the answer to question No. 11, will the Government be pleased to say whether it was not the Conservator who made the suggestion that the improvement of communications in forests on a large scale would involve heavy outlay and the services of a special engineer?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I am not in possession of the information now. I shall enquire and say whether the suggestion referred to was made by the Conservator.

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF FORESTS.

12. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to say whether any Forest Officer has been deputed to continue the economic survey of the forests which the present Conservator was doing while he was Senior Deputy Conservator?

(*b*) If no one has been deputed till now, will the Government be pleased to depute the present Senior Deputy Conservator to continue the work?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The question of detailing an officer to continue the economic survey is under consideration.

PURCHASE OF A ROLLER FOR THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

13. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: With reference to the roller, etc., got down by the Forest Department for use in its rubber plantations, will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information:—

(*a*) the destination of the roller, whether any other articles were got down along with it, through which Firm it was purchased, when and at what cost;

(*b*) if it did not reach the division for which it was intended, who took charge of it, why, and how long he kept it and for what reason it was so kept; and

(*c*) what has become of these articles and what steps have been taken by the Government for their recovery?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) A rubber roller and accessories were purchased by the late Mr. V. Raman Menon, when he was the Conservator of Forests, from Messrs Darragh Smail and Co., Alleppey, on the 27th May, 1920, for Bh.Rs. 524-12-0, for the use of the Perumtode Rubber Plantations.

(*b*) The roller and its stand are reported to have been broken by an accident and the late Conservator kept them with a view to have them repaired or replaced.

(*c*) He offered to repay their cost, if he could not have them repaired or replaced.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly